

# Colouring their world

## Programme allows kids to create on screen

By ABBIE NAPIER

YOU COULD bring your own colouring book to life with new 3D technology being used at the University of Canterbury.

The Human Interface Technology Laboratory New Zealand (HITLab NZ) has developed an augmented reality programme which allows children to colour in pictures for 3D animations.

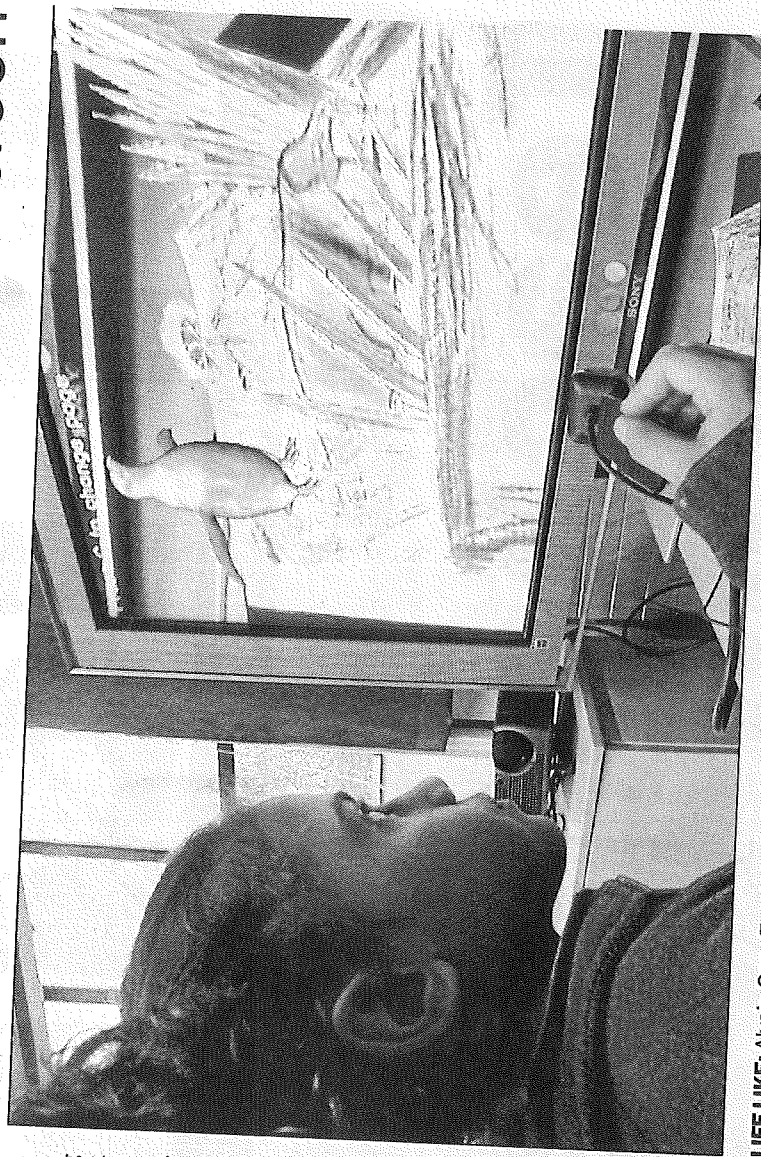
Doctor Adrian Clark designed the coLAR programme to be used to enhance learning.

"We have done numerous studies on the effect of adding technology like this to a book," he said.

"It does improve recall of information in the children who use it because it's so engaging."

Pictures of kiwis and yellow-eyed penguins from the *Amazing Animals of New Zealand* children's book have been used in the programme so far.

"It's incredibly popular with kids. They all want to see their art come alive with



**LIFE LIKE:** Alysia Ono, 7, brings her coloured-in yellow-eyed penguin to life on the big screen.

their own unique designs," he said.

Parents can download the free programme and print out the pictures for children to colour in.

Once coloured in, a webcam attached to the computer feeds the image back into the programme and the image appears

like a 3D hologram on the screen.

The project recently received a funding boost after being named one of three Tech Jumpstart competition winners by the university research and innovation unit.

To download the free programme visit [hitlabnz.org/index.php/products/colar](http://hitlabnz.org/index.php/products/colar).